



THE KYEM PROTECTOR

"News and Views of Emergency Management"

January, 2009

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A SHAKE?

Lori King, KyEM Regional Response Manager

Earthquakes can occur suddenly and without warning, as evidenced on April 18, 2008, when a 5.2 earthquake occurred on the Wabash Valley Seismic Zone. Planning and preparedness are critical to minimize personal injuries, damage to buildings and other disruptions that can be caused by a significant earthquake.

While earthquakes cannot be predicted or prevented, steps can be taken to prepare in order to make a difference in how our lives will be after an earthquake. With this in mind, the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KyEM) is currently planning Earthquake Preparedness Week to be held February 1-7, 2008.

Several events are being planned for the week, including:

- Applied Technology Council (ATC) 20 Class in Lexington (a one-day course which provides procedures and guidelines for making on-the-spot evaluations and decisions regarding continued use and occupancy of post disaster damaged buildings);
- Governor's Proclamation for the week;
- Annual school duck, cover and hold drill to be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 10:07 am EDT;
- A Kentucky Earthquake Preparedness Week specific web page to provide resources for citizens and preparedness partners; and



- Local Officials Course in Western Kentucky involving an earthquake tabletop scenario.

Lori King, KY State Earthquake Program Coordinator said "Kentucky has worked very hard to improve planning efforts in regard to catastrophic earthquake planning. It is critical that we take advantage of this week to inform our citizens and focus on responder training in regard to earthquake preparedness."

For more information on Earthquake Preparedness Week, contact Lori King at (502) 607-5412, or visit KyEM's website at www.kyem.ky.gov.

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KYEM AND KWPC PARTNER TO PLACE MORE WEATHER ALERT RADIOS IN SCHOOLS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

Leslie Mahoney, KyEM Hazard Mitigation Officer



This coming March 3, at 10:07 am EDT, the skies might be sunny with not a threat of bad weather around; but expect an alert to sound over the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA)

weather alert radios in Kentucky, including in schools across the Commonwealth. This is the date of the Severe Weather Alert radio test that is conducted each year. Schools also use this opportunity to exercise their annual tornado drill.

More schools than ever before are expected to receive the alert and participate this year, as it is a shared goal by the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KyEM), Kentucky Weather Preparedness Committee (KWPC) and Kentucky Office of Homeland Security (KOHS) to place these radios in all schools throughout the state. This includes private schools, county school superintendent offices, school bus garages, college campus safety offices and college dorms. Previously, KOHS received a similar grant and placed these alert radios in public schools.

This is made possible, in part, by a FEMA mitigation grant requested by KyEM and KWPC and administrated by KyEM, securing 1,210 of the NOAA weather alert radios for this purpose. Not only are the radios being distributed to the aforementioned locations, it is also the goal to place an alert radio in each county judge, mayor and emergency manager's office as well.

In the past, KyEM has partnered with the National Weather Service (NWS) and also used the NOAA weather alert radios to conduct the annual "Duck, Cover and Hold - Earthquake Drill" which is held each February in schools. Other community alert messages have been broadcast over the NOAA Alert System to help emergency managers warn their citizens and disseminate valuable safety messages.

According to Leslie Mahoney, KyEM hazard mitigation officer, the grant is much more than

weather alert radios. "Other components of the grant allow us to promote severe weather awareness through educational materials that will be given to school teachers throughout the state, as well as materials to promote weather awareness at the State Fair and other venues." She continued by saying "The members of KWPC are to be commended; a lot of hard work and many man hours have gone into this project." Chris Allen, chairman of KWPC added, "The bottom line is this grant will help us educate and warn students and citizens alike of the dangers of severe weather and how to prepare for it. This grant will help save lives!"

The expected timeline for completion of the distribution is January 31, 2008. After that date, if you know of a school or bus garage that does not have a NOAA weather alert radio, please contact your KyEM Regional Response Manager or Leslie Mahoney, at (502) 607-5768 or by email at leslie.mahoney@us.army.mil.

Watch the March edition of the KyEM Protector for additional information on the Kentucky Weather Preparedness Committee.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Are you ready for the transition to Digital TV (DTV)? On February 17, 2009, all full-powered television stations in the US will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital format to allow stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels.

To find out more about whether or not you will be impacted by the DTV transition, go to www.dtv.gov or call the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) at:

1-888-CALL-FCC

or

1-888-TELL-FCC (TTY)

WINTER WEATHER IN KENTUCKY - ANYTHING BUT BORING!

Joe Sullivan, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS Louisville

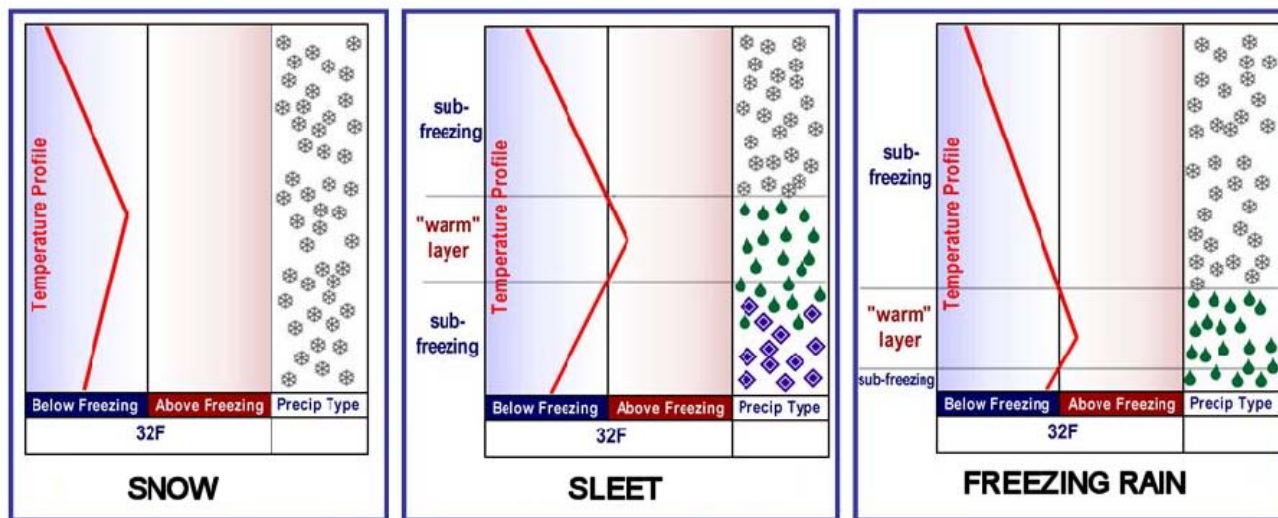
Kentucky can be a true winter wonderland this time of year...at least when it comes to weather. The wide range of possible weather scenarios occurring during the winter months in the Commonwealth often leaves people wondering whether they need a snow shovel in their car or extra batteries for the NOAA weather radio in their tornado shelter.

While the northern U.S. can count on ice, snow and cold during the winter season, land between the Ohio and Tennessee Valleys is often the battleground between two very different air masses that make winter, uh, interesting, to say the least! When arctic air surges into the Ohio Valley from the north, it frequently encounters a moist tropical air mass that has been ushered in by southerly winds blowing in from the Gulf of Mexico. Depending upon a variety of factors when this happens, Kentuckians can experience anything from severe thunderstorms (including hail, flash flooding and tornados) to ice storms, heavy snow and sub-zero temperatures...and sometimes all of the above!

One of the biggest problems with significant winter weather events in Kentucky is the dividing line between liquid precipitation (rain) and freezing or frozen precipitation (sleet, snow, etc.). Unfortunately, identifying the location of this important line is much more difficult than just determining where the temperature is colder than 32 degrees Fahrenheit on the ground. The presence of a warm layer of air above ground can turn a simple rain/snow line into a complicated mix of winter precipitation. Because there are relatively few observations of temperatures above the earth's surface, the location, strengths, and height of these warm layers are often poorly defined, leaving meteorologists with a blind spot in their view of atmospheric conditions when making their forecasts.

The graphic below shows how critical a layer of warm air aloft is to the precipitation type that makes it to the ground.

Depending upon the air temperature above ground, precipitation hitting the ground at a location with a surface temperature in the 20s could be freezing rain, sleet, or snow.



KYEM SPOTLIGHT - CHARLIE O'NEAL

Danny O'Bryan - Profile Contributor, KyEM Marketing Team



The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management (KyEM) could never do its job effectively without the aid of outside agencies and dedicated individuals like Charlie O'Neal.

O'Neal, who started his career as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in 1975 in Hopkinsville, KY, currently serves as the Director of the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services, Director of Public Safety for Anderson County and Director of Emergency Management for Lawrenceburg.

"As a teenager, I was a volunteer for the Red Cross in Hopkinsville and always enjoyed helping people in emergencies" O'Neal said.

KyEM Regional Response Manager John Bastin stated "I've worked with Charlie for years and he has always been supportive of emergency management in Kentucky." For example, O'Neal, through the Kentucky Board of EMS, has required local ambulance service providers to complete and submit to KyEM an inventory of local equipment as part of the mandatory licensing procedures in Kentucky.

Bastin, who also is the resource manager for KyEM stated "Due to his support, we will, for the

first time, be able to identify all of our EMS assets across the Commonwealth. We expect this task to be completed by the end of the calendar year."

O'Neal has also secured funding for EMS Strike Team training, which will implement his plan for forming EMS Strike Teams to be on a rotation schedule and ready to respond locally and to Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) missions. Bastin added that "His plan calls for 20 ambulances and four or five Ambulance Strike Teams to be regionally placed and 'on call' ready to respond when needed. This will be a first in the United States."

O'Neal, despite his many jobs, finds time to attend all of KyEM's Resource Management Workshops. John Bastin reiterated that "he is an outstanding and willing partner with KyEM both in response and preparedness."

According to O'Neal, EMS is the youngest of the emergency response professions. "We've only been around since the 1960s, but we've made a lot of progress since then. We are very happy to be part of the state's emergency response team and to be a partner in the Emergency Operations Center when it is activated" stated O'Neal.

On behalf of emergency management throughout the Commonwealth, thanks Charlie for a job well done!

GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE (GETS)

GETS provides emergency access and specialized processing in the local and long-distance segments of the public switched telephone network (PSTN) to authorized National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) personnel.

GETS is a nationwide priority telecommunications service intended for use in a crisis, disaster, or other emergency when the probability of completing a phone call has significantly decreased. GETS is implemented as a calling card providing access authorization and priority

treatment in the PSTN through a unique dialing plan and personal identification number (PIN).

For information on how to participate in the GETS Program:

Department of Homeland Security
National Communications System
Department of Homeland Security (IAIP/NCS)

Tel: 1.866.NCS.CALL (866.627.2255)
E-mail: gets@dhs.gov
Web: gets.ncs.gov

HELP WHEN CRISIS HITS - KCCRB CAN PROVIDE CRISIS INTERVENTION SERVICES, PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID FOLLOWING DISASTERS

A violent thunderstorm spawns a tornado, whipping through your county, causing fatalities and devastating neighborhoods within seconds.

Summer rains soak already saturated grounds, bringing mud-slides and causing major flooding throughout communities.

A disgruntled employee threatens supervisors and coworkers at a busy worksite. Or worse - he kills several coworkers before taking his own life, as was the recent tragedy in Henderson County.

In a natural or man-made disaster, many events will occur which will necessitate the coordination and delivery of crisis intervention and disaster behavioral health services. When this type of "psychological first aid" is needed, there is help available 24/7.

Following the shootings that killed six workers at Atlantis Plastics in Henderson, crisis responders were on site to provide "psychological first aid" to assist employees. These trained professional volunteer responders are a part of the statewide network maintained by the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board (KCCRB).

The Board, created under KRS Chapter 36 and Chapter 42, ensures an organized, rapid and

effective response in the aftermath of crisis and disaster. KCCRB is the state's lead disaster mental health agency, coordinating services in collaboration with local and regional mental health providers.

"Psychological first aid" applies the basic concepts of protect, direct and connect. It can:

- Address immediate physical needs
- Comfort and console affected individuals
- Provide concrete information about where to turn for help
- Listen to and validate feelings
- Link individuals to support systems
- Normalize stress reactions to trauma and sudden loss
- Reinforce positive coping skills

KCCRB provides assessments, crisis intervention, service collaboration and system development following disasters. It also provides multi-component crisis intervention services statewide. This includes responding to crises with first responders, schools, business or community organizations, as invited.

If a crisis should ever occur in your county, officials may request a response team by calling the 24-hour toll-free number at 888-522-7228.

KCCRB APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Executive Transition Committee of the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Debborah Arnold as our new Executive Director. Debborah comes to us with a strong professional

background and a broad ranging career in state government. Ms. Arnold began her career as a staff psychologist at Central State Hospital. In 1997, she transferred to the Kentucky Employee Assistance Program and has also held the positions of Executive Staff Advisor with the Kentucky State Police and most recently, Executive Director of the Office for Personnel

Management with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

Ms. Arnold earned her master's degree in clinical psychology and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Morehead State University. She is a Certified Public Manager and licensed by the Kentucky State Board of Psychology with over 15 years of professional experience. Debborah has been an active team member of the Community Crisis Response Team since 1998 and has pledged to continue the mission of KCCRT with enthusiastic leadership that will further highlight our service to the Commonwealth and move our agency to the next level of excellence.

KYEM SAYS FAREWELL MY FRIEND

Larry Dixon - KyEM Regional Response Manager

December 31, 2008, Donna C. Gardner and Lee Ann Gibson will have turned in their keys and shut down their KyEM computers for the last time. After 21 years of dedicated service, Donna, like Lee Ann, has made the choice to retire. However, for Donna and Lee Ann, the decision to retire was difficult. Especially with so many good friends and knowing their jobs made a difference to many in the Commonwealth.



Donna's plans are to become more involved in her church, grow more roses and have the prettiest lawn in her subdivision. Her most memorable part of her KyEM journey is the local directors and fellow state employees

that have come and gone over the years, which made life-long friendships that will continue. Donna has said on several occasions, "I wish I could stay and be a part of our new team to accomplish our new vision."

After 28 years, Lee Ann's future desires are to stay home, work on her house and bake lots of cookies for her church who provides them to a homeless shelter. Lee Ann stated "This is the only job I have ever known and I am going to especially miss the people." One of the most

exciting times for her was when the agency went from the electric typewriter to the computer. Lee Ann further stated "I wish everybody the best. Everyone has been so good to work with. I know I'll miss the camaraderie and hopefully, we'll be able to stay in touch. "



Forty-nine combined years of experience left the agency in one day. Earlier in 2008, KyEM lost several other valued employees to retirement and restructuring within the division, which has been necessary to continue the quality of support to our local officials and partner agencies. This void will be felt for years to come, but KyEM has addressed this concern and continues to restructure the current area offices into regional offices. County directors can be assured this reduction in administrative staff will not negatively impact their programs as we move forward with the clear and unmitigated vision of "One Team - One Mission - Protect Our Commonwealth".

Good luck Donna and Lee Ann! Thanks for all your hard work throughout the years. Enjoy your retirement - you've earned it!



KYEM CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY

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| 6 | Pandemic Influenza and Terrorism Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2:00 pm at State EOC | 14 | Pandemic Influenza and Terrorism Workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8:00 am at Dept. of Transportation Bldg |
| 7 | Pandemic Influenza and Terrorism Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1:30 pm at State EOC | 15 | KyEM Protector Newsletter Article Deadline |
| 9 | Regional Response Manager Teleconference <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2:00 pm | 20 | USACE/Emergency Management Wolfe Creek Conference Call |
| | | 21 | Pandemic Influenza and Terrorism Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2:00 am at State EOC |

FROM THE DIRECTOR



As the New Year begins, and after reading the article in this issue about Charlie O'Neal, I think it is important to start 2009 with a message close to my heart. That message is: having and developing a "Servant's Heart". Often this phrase is used or associated in a religious context, which is entirely appropriate. However, this term, or phrase, is also appropriate in relating to people who work within emergency management, as well.

If you work for emergency management, in any capacity, and if you want to become successful in your field, you must become a "Servant to All." This requires each of us to either have or develop a Servant's Heart. Having a Servant's Heart will enable you to work through difficult times and emergency situations while focusing on the bigger picture. We are all part of a system of meeting the needs of our neighbors with our skills and abilities, no matter what it takes. A Servant's Heart will allow you to reach out to your peers and team members, sharing your knowledge and your capabilities, without expectations of a return. Together we are all much stronger than anyone of us alone.

It is important that we adopt a Servant's Heart in order to fully succeed and accomplish our mission. Your personal Servant's Heart philosophy will move you towards helping and mentoring as many people as you can, expecting little in return, except the sense of satisfaction that comes from helping others succeed. In the New Year, I challenge all of us in emergency management to find ways to concentrate on helping people with a Servants Heart!

We must all develop our own positive emergency management "ethos". Wikipedia describes "ethos" as the moral character, or fundamental values of a person, people, culture, place or movement. Our emergency management ethos is all about being prepared to respond to our neighbors call to make the situation better. We do that by serving together until we succeed - no matter what!

Giving more value to your constituents, peers and team members than you get back is a simple but proven practice. You may have heard the term "pay it forward" or "do unto others as you'd have done to you". These are basic principles for proven success. What you give away for free, you get to keep! Practice this in your everyday life and you will see it returned to you tenfold. By having a Servant's Heart and helping others, we all succeed.

We in emergency management must measure our success by how effective we achieve our mission "to protect life and property, public peace, health, safety and the environment of the Commonwealth of Kentucky." It cannot be all about you. If it is, you will never be successful, no matter what field or endeavor you are in. Develop a Servant's Heart and our mission to protect and serve our fellow citizens will be successful beyond your greatest expectations. I wish you only the best in the New Year – we have plenty to do, but we get to work with, and for, the best people on Earth.

See you soon!

JOHN W. HELTZEL

KyEM MISSION STATEMENT

Provide a comprehensive Emergency Management System to protect the life and property, public peace, health, safety and environment of the Commonwealth of Kentucky through an all hazards approach to mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery from disasters and emergencies.